A SYSTEM FOR ENERGY CONSERVATION ON RAIL VEHICLES

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PCT No. PCT/AU89/00421 Sec. 371 Date May 25, 1990 Sec. 102(e) Date May 25, 1990 PCT Filed Sep. 28, 1989 PCT Pub. No. WO90/03622 PCT Pub. Date Apr. 5, 1990.A method and means is provided whereby a vehicle travelling between two fixed points may be controlled either automatically or by prompting a driver to accelerate, coast and brake when required to meet a predetermined time of arrival at the finish point such that any period of coasting is maximized. Use of this method maximizes fuel efficient usage by the vehicle. The progress of the vehicle is monitored and will translate into a velocity/distance curve. The time to COAST and BRAKE is determined from knowing and approximating the vehicle's coasting and braking characteristics along the route path ahead and in conjunction with the real time velocity/distance curve provides intersection points. Those points represent COAST and BRAKE times and means to indicate the action of COAST and BRAKE are then actuated.